

instability. The exception having ceased with those who made it; and the more reasonable demand having been for the British Constitution, with an improved administration of its powers, this state of affairs has been regarded, and the general principles of our Government remain the same as they have ever been. The alterations which have been made by the Act for re-uniting the Canadas,—as, requiring a property qualification in members of Assembly from Lower Canada, the reduction of the number of members, the power to establish *Municipal Districts*, the use of the *English language*, the repeal of the Clergy Reserve section of the former Act,—do not affect the general principles of the Government. We have still the three estates, with their distinct and independent powers, and their mutual relations, checks, and balances. The alterations are chiefly in matters of detail, which leave the general framework of the Government untouched; and the improved system of government has to be wrought out by an improved administration of established and well-defined principles, and not by a new set of principles altogether.

These changes, however, are regarded with aversion by many of both the political parties whose dissensions have so long agitated these Provinces. The first, or Conservative party, declare that these changes will inevitably lead to the subversion of the government, which will be swallowed up by the fierce spirit of a rampant democracy. They protest that all attempts to conduct the government on this improved system must fail, and the man who makes the attempt must sink like the hapless Phæton, and be destroyed in his futile efforts to curb a spirit which is too mighty for his control, and too unruly to be governed by a system that yields so much to its will. On the other hand, many of the Reform party deem that these changes are inadequate to produce the desired end;—that no good commensurate with the wants of the country can be expected from such insufficient means;—that the government is still infected with the spirit, and fettered by the prejudices of the Tories;—that the steeds of the sun are harnessed to a mountain of granite, instead of the swift-rolling chariot of light;—that no movement, no measure can follow any efforts worthy of the occasion;—and that, in short, the government, in its whole action, will be like the mountain in labour—

unutterable throes—a world of expectation—and the result, *a mouse!*

To meet these two classes of objections is our design in the present article. We may not succeed in reconciling all persons to the improved system of Government, (to expect this would be presumption;) yet, although every envious spirit may not be laid, nor every capacious spirit silenced, nor every factious spirit shamed, if we succeed in showing that this system is, on the one hand, conservative of all that is valuable in our institutions, while, on the other, it gives the freest action and fullest liberty to the people that are compatible with those institutions, we may then expect that the reasonable and disinterested of all parties will unite in support of the Government, and thus enable it to fulfil its patriotic designs with a spirit and power adequate to raise these colonies into a condition of great and permanent prosperity. As the people in general can have no other end in view than their own welfare, so the Government can contemplate no other end, and expects support only by proving itself worthy. This proof must, of course, be chiefly by deeds equal to its mission; but, in the mean time, lest the power to perform those deeds be diminished, it is proper to shew that its policy can be defended; because it proceeds on an enlightened and liberal regard to the interests of the whole people. We therefore proceed to state,

## II.—THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

But before we do this, it is necessary for us to assume a certain ground for our reasoning, both in this article, and in all other political discussions which may appear in the *Monthly Review*. We cannot be proving first principles, still less defending them. There is political knowledge among the people, and a fixed adherence to certain leading subjects of constitutional politics. We are warranted in saying this, not only by their numerous declarations to this effect, but also by the severe test to which they were subjected during the late insurrections in the Provinces. We assume, then,

First,—That Canada is to remain a part of the British Empire.

Secondly,—That the connexion between them is not to be maintained by military power